



11/19/2025

Dear Willow Award,

My name is Andrea Kirkwood, Alfred Eddins is my grandfather. I am writing to nominate Renisha McDowell for the Willow Award.

Recently my grandfather passed away from cancer, Renisha was our saving grace during this time.

We met Renisha when my grandfather lived at Landmark Lifestyles, the friendship that started there was sweet, she would always make sure he had everything he needed. He was not at Landmark very long, they were new and there were not many men there for him to be able to socialize with, so we decided to move to The Manor in Benton. Renisha was sad to see him go but she knew he needed to have friends to be able to visit with. She promised she would come visit him. Not long after he moved Renisha kept her promise, she was there visiting and some of the staff came in to check on him, he told them right then that they needed to hire her and if they did not they would be missing out on the best thing that happened to them. Renisha did, in fact, end up working for The Manor shortly after. Renisha, being the close friend to him that she was, always made sure he had everything he needed. When Papaw started showing signs of the cancer taking its toll, Renisha was always right there. She would come in on her days off to check on him, she needed to know he did not need anything and that he was being looked after. Renisha was the only one he trusted at the end to help him move around, his legs not being strong enough for him to stand on his own; he only wanted her to help. I remember one night sitting with him and he was ready to go to bed, it was not shift change yet and Renisha was not there. Someone came in to help him and he said "you need to go get someone to help, you can't do this by yourself", she went to find someone and when she came back it was not Renisha. "I don't like this, y'all will not do this right" he said. I knew he was not happy and texted Renisha asking if she was close. Not 2 seconds later she walked in his room, all her belongings still in her hands, she had just got there, she threw them on the counter and as he looked up he smiled and said "There she is!! Y'all can leave now, she has this!" He only trusted her to help him, he knew she could do it. We all had a feeling that this was the night he wouldn't be getting back out of bed. Renisha checked on him every 30 mins the whole night, it would not surprise me if she sat on the couch just to be with him. The next day when we got there we found the sweetest note she wrote him, we made sure we read it to him. It truly showed just how much she loves him. Right then, we all decided the letter would go with him.

Renisha was not at work when he passed, but I know she felt it when she got the call. She was truly our angel through the whole thing, knowing that someone who loved him just as much as we did was there taking the best care of him possible was such a relief to us. She will forever be part of our family.

We would also like to recognize Teena Latture. She was always there when Renisha was not there. She went out of her way to get him whatever he wanted many times. One day, he chimed in and said he wanted Ice cream. Teena said she would be right back. Got in her car and went to the store to get him some. She texted and let me know she was getting this because he said it sounded good. Later that day I tried to give her money because she paid for the ice cream out of her own pocket, she would not take it. And later I found out she even had car issues that day while taking care of this errand. She made sure someone came to get her right then and left her car at the store, just to get his ice cream back to him before he decided he did not want it any more. Teena always kept us updated and knew if he wanted something or needed something she made sure we knew so that we could have it there as soon as possible.

Both of these remarkable ladies were a huge blessing for our family during this difficult time. They will for sure be in our lives from now on, we have a deep connection no one can break. These ladies make sure they go above and beyond for the people they care for and should be recognized for their compassion and sincerity they extend everyday to their patients and families.

With Love,

The Family of Alfred Eddins

Dale and Melissa Eddins

Dustin and Dominique Eddins (Aaron)

Andrea and EG Kirkwood (Guy)